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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~claim 3, wherein allowed deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication are represented by reset information (SR) and by a chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR), wherein the reset information (SR) is monitored and the chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR) during startup of the communication.

3. (currently amended) <u>A method for monitoring a communication media access schedule of a communication controller in a communication system, the communication system comprising a communication media and nodes connected to the communication media, each node having a communication controller, wherein messages are transmitted among the nodes across the communication media based on a cyclic time triggered communication media access scheme, the method comprising the steps of:</u>

> <u>a) providing a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication; and</u>
> <u>b) using said a priori knowledge during startup of the communication to distinguish between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of the communication controller</u>~~The method of claim 1~~, wherein during startup of the communication, at least one expectation window is defined according to said a priori information, an occurrence of further trigger signals within

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the at least one expectation window being monitored, and
an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation being
distinguished in dependence on an occurrence of further
trigger signals within the at least one expectation window
and in dependence on said a priori information.

4. (currently amended) A method for monitoring a communication
media access schedule of a communication controller in a
communication system, the communication system comprising a
communication media and nodes connected to the communication
media, each node having a communication controller, wherein
messages are transmitted among the nodes across the
communication media based on a cyclic time triggered
communication media access scheme, the method comprising the
steps of:

    a) providing a priori knowledge about possible deviations from
       the communication media access schedule during startup of
       the communication; and
    b) using said a priori knowledge during startup of the
       communication to distinguish between an allowed deviation
       and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of the
       communication controller, wherein, during startup of the
       communication, the communication controller of one of the
       nodes transmits a first trigger signal (ARM) to a bus
       guardian assigned to that communication controller The
       method of claim 22, wherein said first trigger signal (ARM)
       is transmitted at a beginning of a timeslot in a cycle of the
       communication media access scheme and a first expectation
       window is defined at an end of said timeslot in said cycle.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein a further trigger signal

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(ARM) within a further expectation window defines a beginning of a new cycle of the communication media access scheme.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of a number of further expectation windows is defined at a beginning of subsequent cycles of the communication media access scheme.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said number of further expectation windows is defined according to said a priori data.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said number of further expectation windows is defined according to a parameter (ColdStartMax) defining a maximum number of cycles for which the communication controller is allowed to actively try to establish communication with a further communication controller of one of the other nodes of the communication system.

9. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein for an allowed deviation from the communication media access schedule, the expectation windows may or may not contain further trigger signals (ARM).

10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein for a valid schedule-reset (SR), there are no further trigger signals (ARM) within the further expectation windows.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 22claim 4, wherein for a forbidden deviation from the communication media access schedule, there are no further trigger signals (ARM) outside the expectation windows.

12. (currently amended) A data carrier on which a computer program is stored for execution on one of a computer and a microprocessor,

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wherein the computer program is programmed to execute the
method of ~~claim 1~~claim 3.

13. (previously presented) The data carrier of claim 12, wherein the
computer program is stored in one of a read-only-memory, a
random-access-memory, and a flash-memory.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) One of a number of nodes connected to a
communication media, wherein messages are transmitted among the
nodes across the communication media based on a cyclic time
triggered communication media access scheme, the node
comprising:

> a communication controller; and
> means for monitoring the communication media access
> schedule of said communication controller, said monitoring
> means having stored, a priori knowledge about possible
> deviations from the communication media access schedule
> during startup of the communication and means for making
> use of said a priori knowledge in order to distinguish between
> an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a
> failure of said communication controller during startup,
> wherein during startup of the communication, at least one
> expectation window is defined according to said a priori
> information, an occurrence of further trigger signals within the
> at least one expectation window being monitored, and an
> allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation being distinguished
> in dependence on an occurrence of further trigger signals

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within the at least one expectation window and in dependence
on said a priori information.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication media; and
nodes connected to said communication media, wherein
messages are transmitted among said nodes across said
communication media based on a cyclic time triggered
communication media access scheme, each node having a
communication controller and means for monitoring a
communication media access schedule of said communication
controller, wherein said monitoring means has a priori
knowledge about possible deviations from the communication
media access schedule during startup of the communication
and said monitoring means has means for making use of said a
priori knowledge in order to distinguish between an allowed
deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of said
communication controller during startup of the communication,
wherein during startup of the communication, at least one
expectation window is defined according to said a priori
information, an occurrence of further trigger signals within the
at least one expectation window being monitored, and an
allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation being distinguished
in dependence on an occurrence of further trigger signals
within the at least one expectation window and in dependence
on said a priori information.

19. (original) The communication system of claim 18, wherein said a
priori knowledge comprises reset information (SR) and a

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chronological occurrence of said reset information (SR) during startup of the communication, wherein said means for making use of said a priori knowledge monitor said reset information (SR) and said chronological occurrence of said reset information (SR) during startup of the communication in order to distinguish between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a failure of said communication controller.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein during startup of the communication, at least one expectation window is defined according to said a priori information, an occurrence of further trigger signals within the at least one expectation window is monitored, and between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation is distinguished in dependence on an occurrence of further trigger signals within the at least one expectation window and in dependence on said a priori information.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein allowed deviations from the communication media access schedule during startup of the communication are represented by reset information (SR) and by a chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR), wherein the reset information (SR) is monitored and the chronological occurrence of the reset information (SR) during startup of the communication.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein for an allowed deviation from the communication media access schedule, the expectation windows may or may not contain further trigger signals (ARM).

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25. (new) One of a number of nodes connected to a communication
media, wherein messages are transmitted among the nodes across
the communication media based on a cyclic time triggered
communication media access scheme, the node comprising:

> a communication controller; and
> means for monitoring the communication media access
> schedule of said communication controller, in which means
> a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the
> communication media access schedule during startup of the
> communication is stored and means for making use of said
> a priori knowledge in order to distinguish between an
> allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation caused by a
> failure of said communication controller during startup
> wherein during startup of the communication, the
> communication controller of one of the nodes transmits a
> first trigger signal (ARM) to a bus guardian assigned to that
> communication controller.

26. (new) A communication system comprising:

> a communication media; and
> nodes connected to said communication media, wherein
> messages are transmitted among said nodes across said
> communication media based on a cyclic time triggered
> communication media access scheme, each node having a
> communication controller and a monitoring unit, for
> monitoring a communication media access schedule of said
> communication controller, wherein said monitoring unit has
> a priori knowledge about possible deviations from the
> communication media access schedule during startup of the
> communication and said monitoring unit has means for

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making use of said a priori knowledge in order to distinguish
between an allowed deviation and a forbidden deviation
caused by a failure of said communication controller during
startup of the communication wherein during startup of the
communication, the communication controller of one of the
nodes transmits a first trigger signal (ARM) to a bus
guardian assigned to that communication controller.

27. (new) A data carrier on which a computer program for execution on
one of a computer and a microprocessor is stored, wherein the
computer program is programmed to execute the method of claim 4.

28. (new) The data carrier of claim 27, wherein the computer program is
stored in one of a read-only-memory, a random-access-memory,
and a flash-memory.